THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) According to its terms of reference the Fourth Pay Commissions was reguired to make its recommendations as soon as practicable but could also consider if necessary, sending reports on any of the matters as and when the recommendations were finalised. At present, the Commission is actively engaged in examination and review of the pay and allowances and related matters for Central Government employees. Simultaneously the Commission is engaged in recording oral evidence of Staff Unions—so far 305 Unions/Associations have appeared before the Commission. This is likely to be over soon after which the Commission will have discussions with some important persons and official witnesses.

It is, however not possible at this stage to indicate the time by which the Report of the Commission would be submitted and/or implemented by the Government.

Coal Mining Projects with French assistance

38. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of coal mining projects have been set up with French assistance;

(b) if so, what are the names of the projects:

(c) what are the terms of each project; and

(d) what is the nature of assistance provided by France for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes. Sir, France assistance has been sought for developing some coal mining projects.

(b) The following coal mining projects are proposed to be taken up for development with French Collaboration;

1. Ananta UG. 2. Nandira UP. 3. Kendwadih UG. 4. East Katras Katas. UG. 5. Chora UG. 6. Parasea UG. 7. Moira UG. 8. Godavari Khani 10. Incline 9. Tirap-Dedo. 10. Amlabad UG.

(c) and (d) The assistance being sought from the French in the various projects *inter-alia* covers one or more of the following activities:

1. Preparation of Feasibility Report

2. Training of Indian engineers and technicians in France.

3. Technical assistance during implementation of the project.

4. Import of equipment from France with performance guarantee.

5. Transfer of technology for the exploitation of thick seams.

Export of rice to Abu Dhabi

39. SHRI I. P. GOYAL:
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an order obtained by the State Trading Corporation from Abu Dhabi in March, 1985 for the export 8000 tonnes of basmati rice could not be complied with resulting in considerable loss in foreign exchange besides losing a potential market: and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for not fulfilling the deal with Abu Dhabi and and the loss suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) STC signed a contract on 6-3-1985 with Abu Dhabi Municipality for export of 10,000 MT Indian basmati rice of Grade B, as per sealed Sample No. 7: with a firm commitment of 7500 MT and 2500 MT optional to be exercised by STC within 30 days of the first shipment. The contract could not be implemented as the foreign buyer cancelled the contract.